



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### Message from the Director

Many of you are aware of the EPA's recent decision to halt its National Environmental Performance Track Program. A national dialogue has already begun regarding this decision, and I anticipate discussions will continue for quite some time about the future of voluntary environmental performance programs at the national level.

Regardless of EPA's action or the national dialogue concerning it, I want to confirm for you that the Commonwealth remains strongly committed to continuing the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP). We have already initiated steps to accommodate the 14 facilities in Virginia that are currently members of both EPA's Performance Track Program and VEEP. Prior to April 1, DEQ's Pollution Prevention Program staff will contact each of these facilities to explain the procedures for submitting the required annual reports for calendar year 2008 and the process for transitioning from Performance Track to VEEP.

The Commonwealth values and recognizes the significant environmental results being achieved by the VEEP member facilities. We are grateful for the voluntary commitment all of the VEEP participants have made to strive for superior performance through environmental management systems and pollution prevention. VEEP will continue to provide a framework for allowing facilities in Virginia with exemplary compliance records to implement their innovative methods and technologies to go above and beyond their legal requirements.

You will be hearing more soon from the DEQ Pollution prevention staff, but I wanted to take this opportunity to assure you the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program is fully operational and that we remain committed to its continued success.

If you have any questions regarding VEEP and Performance Track, please contact Sharon Baxter at (804) 698-4344 or [skbaxter@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:skbaxter@deq.virginia.gov).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David K. Paylor".